

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were previously pending in the application. By the Amendment, Claims 1 and 18-20 are currently amended, and Claims 2-17 and 21 remain unchanged.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of Claims 6, 7, 11-17 and 21.

Applicants thank Examiner Gravini for the telephone interview on July 19, 2005 with Applicants' Attorney. Examiner Gravini indicated that the present application has been reassigned to him from Examiner O'Malley. Applicants' Attorney and the Examiner did not discuss specific features of the claims.

Claims 1-5, 8 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Takeyama (JP4-307096). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeyama. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeyama in view of Rhode (US 6,374,644).

Claims 1 and 18-20 are being amended after a Final Office action, under 37 CFR §1.116. These amendments were not made previously due to Examiner's new interpretation of the term "access orifice." As acknowledged by the Examiner, the holes of Takeyama are too small to permit insertion of the laundry, but such a limitation was not recited in the claims. Applicants have now amended Claims 1 and 18-20 to include this limitation and more clearly define the claimed invention. These amendments are being made in response to the Examiner's notes in the Office action. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request entry of these amendments and allowance of Claims 1-5, 8-10 and 18-20.

Claims 1 and 18-20 now recite, among other things, "a front side defining an access orifice and a side defining at least one further access orifice permitting insertion of the laundry." Takeyama does not disclose, among other things, a side defining at least one further access orifice permitting insertion of the laundry. As described in the Remarks of the previous Amendments, Takeyama only includes a front access opening and is surrounded on all other sides with side lattices and a rear lattice. Therefore, Takeyama does not disclose all the limitations of Claims 1 and 18-20.

For these and other reasons, Takeyama does not disclose the subject matter defined by independent Claims 1 and 18-20. Therefore, Claims 1 and 18-20 are

allowable. Claims 2-5 and 8-10 depend from Claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 1-5, 8-10 and 18-20, in addition to previously allowed Claims 6-7, 11-17 and 21, are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. Please note that Applicants have changed representation and are now represented by new counsel. The formal Revocation of Power of Attorney / New Power of Attorney and Change of Correspondence Address documents will be forthcoming.

Craig J. Loest

Name of Attorney Signing under 37 CFR 1.34

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig J. Loest", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Craig J. Loest

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